

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 15875 051149Z

21

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 INR-05 L-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 SAJ-01 NSC-05 /042 W

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R 051143Z DEC 74 ZFF \*

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECDEF

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6266

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 15875

FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY BECHER

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, UK

SUBJECT: SCHLESINGER VIEWS ON MASON: PRESS REPORTS

1. THERE IS A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE THIS MORNING  
IN DAILY TELEGRAPH WITH A "BY OUR WASHINGTON STAFF"  
BYLINE THAT SAYS THOUGH OFFICIALLY US SYMPATHIZES  
WITH BRITISH DECISION TO CUT DEFENSE SPENDING "DEFENSE  
SECRETARY IS KNOWN TO BE QUITE DISGUSTED WITH MR.  
MASON, HIS OPPOSITE NUMBER." ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY  
"HE HAS PRIVATELY TOLD AMERICAN DEFENSE CORRESPONDENTS  
THAT THE BRITISH DEFENSE MINISTER IS A 'NOBODY' AND  
THAT 'WE CAN NO LONGER EXPECT BRITISH TO PULL ANY  
WEIGHT'."

2. I DON'T KNOW WHAT SECDEF PRIVATE VIEWS ARE ABOUT  
ROY MASON-REPORT MAY BE ONE-HUNDRED PER CENT ACCURATE-  
ALTHOUGH I WOULD THINK IF THESE REPORTS ARE CORRECT  
HE UNDERESTIMATES MASON, IF NOT AS AN INTELLECT,  
AT LEAST AS A SOLID AND STAUNCH FRIEND AND AN EFFECTIVE  
POLITICIAN IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION. IN ANY EVENT,  
REPORTS LIKE THIS CANNOT DO ANYTHING BUT HARM  
OUR INTERESTS AND RELATIONSHIPS HERE. IT ALSO COMES  
ON MORNING OF DAY MASON HAS INVITED ME TO LUNCH.  
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I HOPE YOU COULD DEVOTE SOME ATTENTION HOW BEST  
TO COUNTERACT EFFECTS OF THIS PIECE, FROM OUTRIGHT  
DENIAL TO SOME KIND OF "RE-INTERPRETATION".  
3. BESIDES, YOU OWE ME SOME FAVORS ANYHOW.

SPIERS

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY PLANS, PRESS COMMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LONDON15875  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D740353-0099  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971110  
**Subject:** SCHLESINGER VIEWS ON MASON: PRESS REPORTS  
**TAGS:** MARR, UK, US  
**To:** DOD  
**Type:** TE  
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